

**CCC Meeting Highlights
September 8, 2004
Berkshire Athenaeum Library**

Welcome:

Everyone introduced themselves and the meeting facilitator reviewed the meeting agenda.

Updates:

EPA

1 ½ Mile Reach: Dean Tagliaferro reported that work continues in the 1 ½ Mile Reach where EPA has removed 49,000 cubic yards of material of an anticipated 100,000 cubic yards. The work is just above Dawes Avenue Bridge and EPA expects to reach Dawes Avenue by Thanksgiving. Next year's work will be below the Dawes Avenue bridge.

Rest of River: The Ecological Risk Assessment is being revised and will be released again in mid-October with a 30-day public comment period on new information. A presentation on the revised risk assessment will be made at a future CCC meeting. The Human Health Risk Assessment is also being revised and is expected to be released in mid-November, also with a 30-day public comment period on new information. The modeling document will also be issued this fall and subject to public comment and peer review.

Barbara Cianfarini raised the concern that holding public comment periods during the holiday season is taxing on individuals.

Angela Bonarrigo said that EPA would be sensitive to this concern when issuing documents for public comment during the holiday season and considering requests to extend the comment periods.

NPDES Permit:

EPA and MADEP are talking with GE, PEDDA, and the City of Pittsfield in preparation for the public-noticing of a draft NPDES permit for outfalls on property currently owned by GE, some of which will be owned by PEDDA when the property is transferred. These discussions are aimed at getting technical factual information about the stormwater system and groundwater treatment system that will help EPA and the Commonwealth to better understand the system as they draft the permit.

EPA hopes to issue a draft permit for public comment this fall. There will be a full public process with ample opportunity for review and comment.

EPA's permitting people were unable to attend the meeting, but Dean directed the

group to contact Roger Janson in EPA's permitting program with any questions at 617-918-1621.

Tim Gray asked if folks would receive notice of the public comment period for the draft NPDES permit. Dean said that they would.

GE

Residential: Dick Gates reported on the status of the residential cleanup program: 350 properties have been sampled, 175 properties have been remediated, one already this year and two scheduled for later this year/ next spring. One new property has been identified and is being evaluated.

Dick Gates also updated the group on the status of the commercial fill properties.

Newell Street I: Seven properties have been remediated. GE is working out access issues with remaining properties.

Newell Street II and Lyman Street Area: GE has submitted remedial designs which are being reviewed.

Oxbows J & K: Oxbows J & K are undergoing supplemental sampling. GE will submit a remedial design this winter.

Oxbows A & C: GE has completed supplemental sampling of Oxbows A & C and will submit a remedial design in January.

Floodplain Properties: Sampling has been completed on Phase 1 and 2 properties, properties down to Dawes Ave., and no remediation is needed. GE has completed most of the sampling of the Phase 3 properties, which includes about 27 residential properties between Dawes and Pomeroy Aves. Most of these properties will receive remediation which will be coordinated with Dean's work in the river. GE has submitted sampling plans to EPA and DEP to review for the Phase 4 properties which are in the area of Fred Gardner River Park.

GE anticipates addressing the Newell Street 2 parking lot in next year's construction season.

Silver Lake: Andy Silfer reported on Silver Lake and said that Silver Lake will need supplemental sampling for pre-design of the cap. Before, before the cap is designed, a bench scale study, and a small pilot study will be conducted. Then a larger pilot study for the overall design will be conducted. The benchscale study should be submitted to EPA in October and conducted this winter.

Tim Gray asked Andy to elaborate on the design of the cap. Andy explained the preliminary design idea for the cap and emphasized that the bench study will look at the capping configurations.

Judy Herkimer asked what provisions are available in the Consent Decree if the cap does not work. She further asked if the remedy for the lake could change from a cap to an actual removal.

It was explained that the Consent Decree calls for limited removal and capping with an armor layer. To change from this would require a modification to the Consent Decree. If all parties agree, then they go to the court for approval. However, if EPA thinks that a different way makes more sense and GE disagrees, EPA would have to see if it fits within a re-opener of the Consent Decree. If EPA determines that the cap as envisioned is not protective of human health and the environment, EPA can present another plan to GE.

Tim Gray expressed concern that EPA and GE will be monitoring the cap for a longtime and asked if the re-opener will be available 20-30 years from now. He also asked how long EPA will monitor Silver Lake and what if the cap is shown not to work or if it degrades over time.

Tim Conway replied that the cap will be monitored for 5 to 7 years. After this period of time, a long-term monitoring plan will be proposed and submitted for approval.

Brownfields / Unkamet Brook / General Dynamics: John Novotny reported that GE will work through the fall to prepare buildings for demolition in early 2005. Buildings 61, 62, and 66 along East Street will be demolished later this year.

MA DEP:

MA DEP did not have any new information to report at this meeting.

NRD

Dean Tagliaferro presented the NRD update. The Massachusetts Trustees awarded a contract to Woodlot Alternatives to develop a restoration plan for the site. The restoration plan will be developed over the next six months.

Tim Gray explained the role of the restoration plan in the NRD process for identifying projects to be funded by the \$7.5 million settlement that Massachusetts Trustees received as part of the Consent Decree settlement.

Judy Herkimer added that the CT NRD Trustees have cancelled the last three meetings of the trustees in CT.

Discussion:

Tim Conway led a discussion regarding the state of the information repositories, particularly the Berkshire Athenaeum Library which has brought to EPA's attention that it can no longer maintain the volume of material that is being sent to them. Tim explained to the group that the EPA team has been discussing the issue and wanted to hear from the CCC before going forward with any changes to the current repository

strategy. A discussion ensued.

It was noted that all of the documents are available for review in the MA DEP office in Springfield and that it might be possible to arrange for a DEP staff person who works in Lee a few days a week to bring documents to Pittsfield if folks requested.

It was also noted that a lot of the documents in the library are no longer applicable.

Judy Herkimer said that she understood that the volume of materials are an issue, however the citizens had fought hard for the repositories. She suggested that perhaps the agency could provide staffing once a month to maintain the repositories.

Tim Gray mentioned that he goes on-line for new information instead of going to the library.

Another person mentioned that while CD Roms are a good idea, computers are not accessible to all so continuing to make hard copies of reports available is important.

Another person mentioned that paper copies of new documents are important for reviewing, comprehending and commenting on the material.

It was suggested that it might be better to digitize the old materials and put them on the EPA website.

It was agreed that where a recent report has the same information as an old report, the old report could be removed from the library.

Charlie Cianfarini suggested that EPA look into whether there is space at the Silvio Conte National Archives.

Tim Conway wrapped up the conversation and said that EPA would contact the Silvio Conte National Archives to see if space is available and would consider the issues raised by the CCC while formulating a plan for which EPA documents to remove from the Ahenaeum.

Future Meetings:

The 2004 ? 2005 meeting schedule is:

November 3rd

December 1st (if prepared with Silver Lake presentation)

January 5th

March 2nd

May 4th

June 1st

September 7th

Action Items:

1. EPA will contact the Silvio Conte National Archives.
2. EPA will further consider what to do about historical documents.
3. EPA will conduct outreach to residents around Silver Lake in advance of a presentation to the CCC on Silver Lake.